IN THE CLAIMS:

      1.   (currently amended)   A method for transmitting data comprising the steps of:

      transmitting, prior to and independent of said data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate; and

      transmitting said data at said rate during said time interval using a data transmission channel;

      wherein said message comprises:

      an indication of a frame type;

      an indication of said rate of said data; and

      an indication of said time interval;

      wherein said frame type indicates at least one of a link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit;

      wherein said link schedule indicates the duration of said data transmission;

      wherein said channel active set indicates a set of base stations; and,

      wherein said erasure-indicator-bit indicates an erasure of previously received frames.

      2-3. canceled

      4.   (currently amended)   An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitter further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit;

wherein said link schedule indicates the duration of said data transmission;

wherein said channel active set indicates a set of base stations; and,

wherein said erasure-indicator-bit indicates an erasure of previously received frames.

5.   canceled

6.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said link schedule is selected from a group consisting of a forward link schedule and a reverse link schedule.

7.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 6 wherein said forward link scheduling information is contained in a 10 bit forward link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a forward link schedule message;

4 bits indicating an assigned forward link rate of said data channel; and

4 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is assigned said forward link rate.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein said reverse link scheduling information is contained in an 18 bit reverse link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a reverse link schedule message;

4 bits indicating a granted reverse link rate of said data channel; and,

12 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is granted said reverse link rate, wherein each subset of 4 bits represents a single carrier.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said channel active set information is contained in an 8 bit channel active set message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a channel active set message; and,

6 bits indicating base stations in the active set, wherein each bit represents a base station.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said erasure-indicator-bit information is contained in an 5 bit erasure-indicator-bit message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is an erasure-indicator-bit message;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a fundamental data channel;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a supplemental data channel; and,

1 bit indicating demodulation of said fundamental channel.

11.   canceled

12.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said link schedule is selected from a group consisting of a forward link schedule and a reverse link schedule.

13.   (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said forward link scheduling information is contained in a 10 bit forward link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a forward link schedule message;

4 bits indicating an assigned forward link rate of [[said]] a data channel; and

4 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is assigned said forward link rate.

14.   (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said reverse link scheduling information is contained in an 18 bit reverse link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a reverse link schedule message;

4 bits indicating a granted reverse link rate of [[said]] a data channel; and,

12 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is granted said reverse link rate, wherein each subset of 4 bits represents a single carrier.

15.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said channel active set information is contained in an 8 bit channel active set message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a channel active set message; and,

6 bits indicating base stations in the active set, wherein each bit represents a base station.

16.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said erasure-indicator-bit information is contained in an 5 bit erasure-indicator-bit message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is an erasure-indicator-bit message;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a fundamental data channel;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a supplemental data channel; and,

1 bit indicating the demodulation of said fundamental channel.

17.   (currently amended)   An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a means for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitting means is further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit;

wherein said link schedule indicates the duration of said data transmission;

wherein said channel active set indicates a set of base stations; and,

wherein said erasure-indicator-bit indicates an erasure of previously received frames.

18.   canceled

19.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said link schedule is selected from a group consisting of a forward link schedule and a reverse link schedule.

20.   (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said forward link scheduling information is contained in a 10 bit forward link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a forward link schedule message;

4 bits indicating an assigned forward link rate of [[said]] a data channel; and

4 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is assigned said forward link rate.

21.   (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said reverse link scheduling information is contained in an 18 bit reverse link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a reverse link schedule message;

4 bits indicating a granted reverse link rate of [[said]] a data channel; and,

12 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is granted said reverse link rate, wherein each subset of 4 bits represents a single carrier.

22.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said channel active set information is contained in an 8 bit channel active set message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a channel active set message; and,

6 bits indicating base stations in the active set, wherein each bit represents a base station.

23.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said erasure-indicator-bit information is contained in an 5 bit erasure-indicator-bit message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is an erasure-indicator-bit message;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a fundamental data channel;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a supplemental data channel; and,

1 bit indicating the demodulation of said fundamental channel.

24.   (new) A method for transmitting data comprising the steps of:

transmitting, prior to and independent of said data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

transmitting said data at said rate during said time interval using a data transmission channel;

wherein said message comprises:

an indication of a frame type;

an indication of said rate of said data; and

an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of a link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said link schedule is a forward link scheduling information contained in a 10 bit forward link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a forward link schedule message;

4 bits indicating an assigned forward link rate of said data channel; and

4 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is assigned said forward link rate.

25.   (new) A method for transmitting data comprising the steps of:

transmitting, prior to and independent of said data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

transmitting said data at said rate during said time interval using a data transmission channel;

wherein said message comprises:

an indication of a frame type;

an indication of said rate of said data; and

an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of a link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said link schedule is a reverse link scheduling information contained in an 18 bit reverse link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a reverse link schedule message;

4 bits indicating a granted reverse link rate of said data channel; and,

12 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is granted said reverse link rate, wherein each subset of 4 bits represents a single carrier.

26.   (new) A method for transmitting data comprising the steps of:

transmitting, prior to and independent of said data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

transmitting said data at said rate during said time interval using a data transmission channel;

wherein said message comprises:

an indication of a frame type;

an indication of said rate of said data; and

an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of a link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said channel active set information is contained in an 8 bit channel active set message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a channel active set message; and

6 bits indicating base stations in the active set, wherein each bit represents a base station.

27.   (new) A method for transmitting data comprising the steps of:

transmitting, prior to and independent of said data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

transmitting said data at said rate during said time interval using a data transmission channel;

wherein said message comprises:

an indication of a frame type;

an indication of said rate of said data; and

an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of a link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said erasure-indicator-bit information is contained in an 5 bit erasure-indicator-bit message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is an erasure-indicator-bit message;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a fundamental data channel;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a supplemental data channel; and,

1 bit indicating demodulation of said fundamental channel.

28.   (new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitter further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said link schedule is a forward link scheduling information contained in a 10 bit forward link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a forward link schedule message;

4 bits indicating an assigned forward link rate of a data channel; and

4 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is assigned said forward link rate.

29.   (new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitter further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said link schedule is a reverse link scheduling information contained in an 18 bit reverse link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a reverse link schedule message;

4 bits indicating a granted reverse link rate of a data channel; and,

12 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is granted said reverse link rate, wherein each subset of 4 bits represents a single carrier.

30.   (new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitter further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said channel active set information is contained in an 8 bit channel active set message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a channel active set message; and,

6 bits indicating base stations in the active set, wherein each bit represents a base station.

31.　　(new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitter further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said erasure-indicator-bit information is contained in an 5 bit erasure-indicator-bit message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is an erasure-indicator-bit message;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a fundamental data channel;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a supplemental data channel; and,

1 bit indicating the demodulation of said fundamental channel.

32.　　(new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a means for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitting means is further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said link schedule is a forward link scheduling information contained in a 10 bit forward link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a forward link schedule message;

4 bits indicating an assigned forward link rate of a data channel; and

4 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is assigned said forward link rate.

33.	(new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a means for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitting means is further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said link schedule is a reverse link scheduling information contained in an 18 bit reverse link schedule message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a reverse link schedule message;

4 bits indicating a granted reverse link rate of a data channel; and,

12 bits indicating the duration for which said data channel is granted said reverse link rate, wherein each subset of 4 bits represents a single carrier.

34.   (new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a means for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitting means is further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said channel active set information is contained in an 8 bit channel active set message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is a channel active set message; and,

6 bits indicating base stations in the active set, wherein each bit represents a base station.

35.   (new) An apparatus for transmitting comprising:

a means for transmitting, prior to and independent of a data transmission, a message indicative of the rate of said data and a time interval over which said data will be transmitted at said rate;

wherein said transmitting means is further configured for forming said message to include at least an indication of a frame type, an indication of said rate of said data; and an indication of said time interval;

wherein said frame type indicates at least one of link schedule, channel active set, and erasure-indicator-bit; and,

wherein said erasure-indicator-bit information is contained in an 5 bit erasure-indicator-bit message comprising:

2 bits indicating that a frame is an erasure-indicator-bit message;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a fundamental data channel;

1 bit indicating an erasure-indicator-bit for a supplemental data channel; and,

1 bit indicating the demodulation of said fundamental channel.